## SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Appellate Panel

**FROM:** Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

**DATE:** September 13, 2019

**RE:** Request for Special-Called Meeting To Hear Eligibility Appeal

## Members of the Appellate Panel:

The League has received an eligibility appeal request from an attorney who represents Quinton Scout Wallace ("Student"), a senior at Lewisville High School. Lewisville High School appealed the denial of eligibility for Student back in August, which the Executive Committee also denied. Lewisville High School chose not to appeal to the Appellate Panel last month.

Under our constitution and bylaws, a student may pursue an appeal to the Appellate Panel as long as the school pursued it to the Commissioner and the Executive Committee. Last week, an attorney for the Student submitted the enclosed brief in support of an appeal to the Appellate Panel and asked that we hold an expedited hearing. The basis for the request for the expedited hearing is that the Student is only seeking eligibility for football, and the next scheduled meeting for the Appellate Panel is on November 25, which would be the week before state football finals.

By way of background, the Student attended Lewisville High School as a sophomore and then enrolled at York High School, who requested a hardship for Student to participate during his junior year (2018-2019). That hardship was approved by the Executive Committee. The Student then left York High School in January 2019 and re-enrolled at Lewisville High School for the completion of his junior year. By rule, the Student would be ineligible for 365 days after transferring back to Lewisville High School. Lewisville High School requested a hardship waiver for the student to be eligible for fall sports this year, and I approved the hardship for all fall sports except football, since he participated in football at York High School last year. Lewisville High School then appealed the denial of football eligibility to the Executive Committee.

To schedule an expedited hearing, the Appellate Panel would have to hold a special-called meeting. Following the same requirements for the Executive Committee to hold a special-called meeting, it would require <u>either</u> the chairperson, Mr. King, to call the meeting, or three members of the Appellate Panel could request that a meeting be held to hear this appeal. Please remember that a request to hear the appeal does not necessarily mean that you are in favor of granting the appeal; it would merely allow the student to have a hearing prior to the end of the affected sports season.

If Mr. King or three other members would like to hear this appeal before November 25, please let me know and we will schedule the meeting as soon as possible to ensure a quorum would be present.